

IRELAND'S WOES

REV. U. J. CANON BURKE DEPICTS THE SORROWS AND SUFFERINGS OF THE IRISH FARMERS—A PATHETIC APPEAL—WHAT CAN BE DONE?

WASHINGTON, NOV. 29, 1879.

The following is the copy of letter received here a few days ago by Miss Esmeralda Boyle, which, as will be seen, makes a sad exhibition of the wrongs the countrymen in Ireland are suffering from.

...sairs among the tenantry in Ireland. Canon Burke is, I understand, related to the eminent Dominican Friar, Father Tom Burke, and is a member of considerable influence in Mayo. Miss Boyle has decided to place a copy of the letter in the hands of every Senator and Representative when Congress meets next week, with the hope that something may be done to alleviate the suffering at present.

CLAREMORRIS, COUNTY MAYO, IRELAND,
November Eve. 1879.

MY DEAR MISS BOYLE.—It is now six months since you had a letter from me. Last May our people were hopeful that, after the unusually severe winter which had passed, the summer would be very fine and the harvest would come to crown with an abundant return the labors and trials of the year. The contrary of all this has come to pass. The summer has been a failure, the harvest has not begun.

had a failure in the potato crop. In some districts the yield was at present one-half, in others three-fourths, and in a few more than three-fourths of the normal return. The cereal crops are not all that one could wish. The winter of winter is felt already in the chill northern districts, and even in this, the last evening of October, there are many cornfields unreaped and a few not wholly ripe. Peat or turf is scarce in Connaught, the only fuel; this year's peat

or firing is not yet dried. A fuel famine threatens. Along with these misfortunes sent by God for the chastisement and improvement of our people, there exists also great commercial depression. The price for sheep, cows, oxen and all kinds of live stock is only one-half what it had been two years ago; and this depression is notably low for the season. The live stock, because there is so much demand for animals that are not marketable or in poor condition. American farm produce has cheapened our markets immensely.

Hence you will see that our people cannot pay the high rents which they are accustomed to pay. Nay, some of the small farmers cannot continue to hold on to the farms they have hitherto tilled. They will have quite enough to do this year to exist merely; they will not be in a position to support their sons and daughters and prepare them for the battle of life.

Already the cry has gone forth. What is to be done for the reduction of rents? Most of the landowners

These lands were held by twenty-five per cent. of those landlords who hold extensive property have been no reduction.

FUTILE APPEALS TO GOVERNMENT.

Abatement such as this, however, is not sufficient. All the priests and people of Connaught have, under one form or another, memorialized the Lord Lieutenant who rules Ireland to give the people employment at some remunerative work. Yesterday the bishops of Ireland implored Her Majesty's Viceroy to save the people's lives. This day's Freeman's

Journal contains the strange news that His Grace the Lord Lieutenant has turned a deaf ear to the appeal of the Irish bishops. To-day the Corporation of Dublin lays the prayers of a famishing nation at the feet of its Governor. This day will witness the same callous reply.

I must express an opinion which is known by many to be true, that His Grace the Duke of Marlborough is not only deaf, but also feels for the people's wants, but is not a member of the Earl of Beaconsfield's government and so will do no good except on nothing. On the first week

On November all the Irish members of Parliament will lay a similar appeal before the Prime Minister. Disraeli will simply laugh at their apparent earnestness. What does he care if 100,000 Irish people die of famine? Nothing!

He regards Irishmen just as he regards their Aryan cousins to the east and west of the Indus. Like the Aryan in the fable, the Irish people seem to think that they must depend on themselves and on the children of their race. The distress which has fallen on

For this country is in truth great, and the people, I fear, must suffer. The only immediate and direct remedy is employment. This they are not likely, as you see, to obtain. Immigration, therefore, to America, in winter and in cooling season, is likely to be renewed. In which case you cannot but observe the fact that in which King Alfonso of Spain has acted toward those who, in his province of Murcia, suffered from the late floods. He, like a father, ran to aid his children, the Spaniards.

How differently, compared with our rulers, the

Emperor and Empress of Austria acted last spring for the relief of those among their subjects who in like manner suffered. Four years ago the Garonne, swollen by the rains of the Pyrennees, committed great devastation in the south of France. The President, Marshal MacMahon, went in person to relieve the sufferers. The people of these regions ask for bread, and they receive abundance and every requisite. We ask for bread, and we receive abundance and every requisite.

preparation of the subject, and the general outline of the principles of right and of distributive justice, with facility and accuracy, for the subjects of this nation. His rule and his conduct of policy and statecraft, directed by imperial interest, and seemingly the outcome of political pressure. You were never in Ireland. Many Irish men and women now in your country know how multitudes then asked for bread, and there were none to break it unto them." Then, "and in Jerusalem during the captivity, "the children

I myself saw strong men and young women die of starvation; one young girl especially, of nineteen, the eldest of a poor family of nine, struggle in the jaws of hunger for six months and then perish, literally reduced to a skeleton. I did my best at the time to help that family, but I was only able to help only eighteen years of age. I saw two children dead with grass in their mouths, having starved in vain to obtain sufficient nutriment to eat.

in life from the grass of the field. Scenes like these were then common. Many would not believe that such things occurred, but I saw them. I saw hundreds of children, from the age of two to twelve, with hair on their skinny arms and cheeks fully one-half inch long—a false growth caused by decay and hunger. I saw over one thousand men and women and children of all sizes and ages outside the poor-house of Castlebar, assembled for inspection by order of the poor law guardians, lest any name should be

But I cannot tell you how much I have enjoyed my time here, especially at the time alive. I cannot say in the flesh, because I have been dead some time. Their presence at the time, however, has made me more than ever aware of the vision of boneness which I have seen.

Shall children like those occur again? God forbid! Shall the children of this Saint Patrick—the sons and daughters of the O'Byrnes, who have come down from the conquering Irish the Great; the O'Briens; the O'Donnellans; your cousins from Donegal; the O'Loughlins—

the MacLaughlins; the O'Reillys, O'Reilly and all the other noble Norman families; the grand Milman stock—were all highly delighted and happy? Shall the children of the noble families be the same? Away with the thought! The times are changed. Food, at all events, is cheap. Our friends in America will send their best wishes to the poor, which is heartening, but the real crisis, which is hastening, will be the day of the great Irish famine, when the poor will be the poor of the world.

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Can you do any good for your people in the land of America? The two great ends to be attained are, first, to relieve the people in their present distress, and trials; the second, to fix them in the homes of their fathers, by making them proprietors of their farms. This latter is a difficult task; yet the cry has gone forth, and all claspings, at home and abroad, have echoed the call.

and proclaim that the Irish race will be satisfied with nothing less. There is a peasant proprietary in Belgium, France, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Prussia, Russia, Austria, Switzerland, Greece, part of Italy, America. Why not in Ireland? This is the teaching of the statesmen of England and of her scholars—Bright, Cobden, Lord John Russell, John Stuart Mill, and of John Von Stein, the great Prussian statesman.

"Our nation's riches, comfort, and happy, joyous build
 do not make Ireland rich, comfortable, and happy? Is
 it worth their while to have the waste lands, the bog
 and the moor, to remain the waste lands, to buy those
 lands offered for sale, and to subdivide them into
 farms of twenty acres among the tenants now in
 possession, so that in three years or in ten
 the tenants would become lords and owners
 of their own farms. We want to secure free
 homes for our Irish farmers dwelling now on Irish
 soil. The government could, if it so pleased,

ny up the right of the landlords and settle the matter at once. But the present government of this country will not do this. All available persuasion should be brought to bear to convince them that nothing else but this remedy, except self-legislation, will ever make Ireland—as she ought to be—great, glorious and free and a faithful servant.

W. L. G. MICK J. CANON ROUBKE, JR., M. R. A.
CLIFF EMERALDA BOYLE, Washington, D. C.,
United States, America.

POSTMASTER JAMES SUED.
Sult has been begun by Counsellor William L. Whiting, of Brooklyn, against Postmaster Thomas L. James, to recover \$2,500 damages on the ground of libel. The plaintiff recently sent a registered letter to a banker of this city. The letter was returned unopened by Postmaster James, with the words, "Receivable by delivery prohibited by order of the Postoffice Department."

Postmaster General," stamped upon it. There is an order of the Postmaster General directing postmasters to return to the writers all registered letters addressed to certain persons, with the word "Fraudulent" stamped on them. The plaintiff claims that a postmaster, in carrying out the order, must act only on sufficient evidence to show that the parties are carrying on a fraudulent lottery business, while in the present case, he avers, there is no such evidence.